Beginning in 2009, the Missouri Nurses Foundation has implemented the Nightingale Tribute to be used as a remembrance, honoring a loved one's service to the nursing profession. Any part or all of The Nightingale Tribute may be used; modifications to the reading and script are encouraged.

Center for Missouri Nurses

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"She Was There" is copyrighted by Duane Jaeger, RN, MSN as published in this brochure. Individuals using this poem as part of a memorial service are permitted to change the pronoun to make it gender appropriate.

MK26-017

The Nightingale Tribute

Remembering a Nurse

A tribute to any Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse for their years of service; to be presented during the nurse's funeral by a nurse colleague or friend.

Nursing is a calling, a way of life. Nursing is a service profession that cannot be lived in isolation. Nurses rely on each other for the synergistic effect of teamwork in our efforts of care giving. It is appropriate that we honor our colleagues not only during their career, but also at the end of life's journey.

Format for the Nightingale Tribute

The Nightingale Tribute begins with a short synopsis of the nurse's career. A creative reading follows the synopsis. A white rose is placed with the nurse after the reading, with the following statement,

> **"(Name), we honor you this day and give you a white rose to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our nursing colleague."**

This entire tribute takes only two minutes and can be placed anywhere within the service appropriate to the traditions and beliefs of the recipient's faith.

How do I arrange for this tribute to be given at my loved one's service?

Visit with your funeral home director about this tribute. Contact a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse friend or colleague (active or retired) of the deceased and ask him/her to present the tribute at the service. If he/she is willing, ask them to visit with you about your loved one's service as a nurse.

Use the words included with this brochure as a creative reading to follow the career synopsis. Adapt the reading to fit the recipient.

Schedule the tribute within the service in collaboration with the family, funeral home and place of worship as appropriate. Decide if you would like a white rose placed with your loved one in tribute and honor. If so, notify the nurse presenter and any other nurse friends to bring a white rose.

The Nightingale Tribute Reading

Nursing is a calling, a lifestyle, a way of living. Nurses here today honor our colleague _____ who is no longer with us and their life as a nurse.

_____ is not remembered by his/her _____ years as a nurse, but by the difference he/she made during those years by stepping into people's lives, by special moments.

She Was There

When a calming, quiet presence was all that was needed,
She was there.

In the excitement and miracle of birth or in the mystery and loss of life,
She was there.

When a silent glance could uplift a patient, family member or friend,
She was there.

At those times when the unexplainable needed to be explained,
She was there.

When the situation demanded a swift foot and sharp mind,
She was there.

When a gentle touch, a firm push, or an encouraging word was needed,
She was there.

In choosing the best one from a family's "Thank You" box of chocolates,
She was there.

To witness humanity—its beauty, in good times and bad, without judgment,
She was there.

To embrace the woes of the world, willingly, and offer hope,
She was there

And now, that it is time to be at the Greater One's side,
She is there.

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[Note: pronoun can be changed.]

_____, we honor you this day and present this white rose and light this candle to symbolize our honor and appreciation for being our nurse colleague.